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Montana Veterans Long Term Care Needs Study

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PREPARED BY:

**Senior & Long Term Care Division
Department of Public Health and Human Services
State of Montana
Helena, Montana**

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Executive Summary

II Executive Summary

The 59th Legislature directed the Department of Public Health and Human Services to conduct an analysis of Veterans Long Term Health Care Needs. The Legislature requested that the study include an analysis of the demographics of the Montana veterans' population, including the number and age of veterans in each county and an analysis of the services currently available to meet veterans long term care needs and the need for additional long term care services. The long term care assessment for veterans must also include the evaluation of the need for nursing home, domiciliary and specialized services such as dementia/Alzheimer care, as well as, various types of community and in-home care options that are available and may be needed. Additionally the existing State veterans' home services and configuration of those services should be analyzed.

The following report is a summary of the analysis undertaken by the Department to identify current and anticipated veterans long-term care needs in Montana. The report is broken into the following areas: Demographic and Geographic information; State Veterans Homes; Montana State Veterans' Homes Compare; The VA State Home Program; Federal Veterans Assistance Programs; Current Legislation/Federal Initiatives for Veterans Long Term Care; Challenges facing State Veterans Homes; Other Long Term Care Service Options; and Veterans Survey Letter/Tool/Results.

Demographic and Geographic Highlights:

Montana's population 65 years of age or older was 13.4% in 2000. Montana is projected to age at a significantly greater rate than other states in the nation, and by 2025, Montana is projected to have the third highest proportion (24.5%) of people age 65 and over with the fastest growing age group being those 85 years of age and older. By 2025, 3.1% of Montana's population is projected to be 85 and older, the 4th highest percentage in the nation. The 65 and over population will increase from 125,000 in 2002 to about 270,000 by 2030, which will mean that one in every four Montanans will be 65 or older. There are currently about 160 people in Montana who are 100 years of age or older. Montana like other states will have to prepare for an increase in the number of people needing long-term care services.

The 2000 census indicates that 108,476 Veterans make their home in Montana, and 37,631 veterans were over 65 years of age. While a little more than 13% of Montanans are age 65 and older, over 1/3 of the states' veterans population is in that age group. Many World War II veterans are entering their eighties, the peak age for nursing home utilization, and will be followed by veterans who served in Korea and Vietnam. Among the 50 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska had the highest percentage of veterans at 17.1 percent. Veterans accounted for about 16.2 percent of the adult population in

Montana, followed by Nevada (16.1 percent), Wyoming (16 percent), and Maine (15.9) percent.¹

The veteran population is representative of the increase in the overall aging population. The region representing Missoula County, Lake County, Mineral County, and Ravalli County is projected to have the largest aging Veteran population 65 years and older over the next two decades reaching 22.44% by 2025.

Montana State Veterans Home Highlights:

Montana currently provides skilled nursing, intermediate nursing, and other ancillary services to Montana's elderly veterans in two State Veterans facilities. They are the Montana Veterans Home (MVH), a 105-bed facility located in Columbia Falls and the Eastern Montana Veterans Home (EMVH) an 80-bed facility located in Glendive.

Eight-eight percent (88%) of the residents of these facilities resided in Montana prior to admission while twelve percent (12%) resided in states other than Montana. The admissions of residents originated from twenty-four (24) counties; with the first and second largest veterans home population originating from the county in which the State home is located. Flathead County admissions represent thirty-nine percent (39%) of the total MVH population, and Dawson County represents eight percent (8%) of the total EMVH admissions.

The MVH and EMVH, have occupancy rates of 93 % and 70% respectively. These facilities have been highly dependent on local area admissions. Admissions from other areas of the state and contiguous states have not helped to achieve full occupancy at either facility in recent years. However, the Special Care Units serving residents with dementia and Alzheimer's at both facilities have historically experienced full occupancy and waiting lists.

When comparing the types of beds available for veterans in Montana regionally and nationally, Montana has 81% of its beds designated for skilled/intermediate care as compared to 51% in the region, and 73% nationwide. Special Care beds in Montana represent 13% of the available beds, while regionally and nationally the percentage of such designated beds is 5%. Even with 13% of its available beds designated for people with dementia, primarily individuals with Alzheimer's disease, the units at both Montana facilities have been full, and expansions have been undertaken to better serve veterans with these care needs. Domiciliary beds in Montana represent 6% of the available beds, compared to 41% regionally, and 19% nationwide designated for domiciliary use.

¹ Helping You Make Informed Decisions; U.S. Department of Commerce; Economics and Statistics Administration; U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; Issued May 2003; Veterans: 2000 Census; 2000 Brief; By Christy Richardson and Judith Waldrop

Contiguous State Comparisons:

Montana's number of facilities and beds available are comparative with the surrounding states. Idaho has 3 facilities with 304 beds, followed by Montana with 2 facilities with 197 beds. South Dakota has 162 beds, followed by North Dakota with 149 beds, and then Wyoming with 116 beds, with each of these three states having only 1 state veteran facility.

Montana ranks 15th nationwide in number of beds available per veteran age 65 and older. On average there are 191 veterans 65 years and older (37,631) per available state veterans' home bed in Montana (197). Of the regional states, Montana ranked below North Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, and South Dakota in this bed analysis. North Dakota was 9th with 147 veterans 65 years and older per available bed in that state. Idaho was 10th with 150 veterans 65 years and older per available bed. Wyoming was 11th with 155 veterans 65 years and older per available bed. And South Dakota was 13th with 183 veterans 65 years and older per available bed. Nationally, there was 368 veterans 65 years and older per available bed at State Veterans Homes.

State Veterans Home Program:

Montana currently has 197 state veterans' home beds. Based on the Veterans Administration (VA) methodology for determining the number of nursing home beds and domiciliary beds needed by veterans in each state, Montana is eligible to add just one (1) more bed under the VA methodology. This methodology also determines eligibility to receive funding from the VA state home construction program. Through the state home construction program, the VA can participate in up to 65 percent of the cost of acquisition and construction of new domiciliary or nursing home buildings, provided VA standards and regulations are met. The acquisition and renovation costs may not exceed the cost of construction of an equivalent new facility. Construction grants can be requested for qualifying projects that are at least \$400,000.

Even though Montana would not qualify for construction grant assistance using this methodology, they could be considered under an exceptions process if there is adequate documentation that travel distances will exceed two hours between a veteran population center and an SVH. This exception to the maximum bed limit for a greater than a 2-hour travel time (normal land travel time) from the two current State Veterans Homes in Columbia Falls and Glendive to a number of new locations in Montana can be documented.

Due to a backlog of pending projects in the construction pipeline that will soon exceed \$400 million, and at the current pace, a new project submitted by Montana today could wait five years or more for VA funding consideration. States have committed funds that VA cannot match now because VA is seriously under-funded at a time when the long term care needs of elderly, frail and sick veterans have never been greater.

Federal VA Program:

The VA Montana Healthcare System operates a major medical center at Fort Harrison, five miles west of Helena, providing a full range of health care services for veterans; a federal nursing home at Miles City, and ten outpatient clinics dedicated to primary care services. In 2005, the VA spent more than \$288 million in Montana serving about 102,000 veterans living in the state. VA Montana had 2,588 inpatient admissions, while outpatient visits totaled 250,151. In 2005, 13,828 veterans age 65 and older received outpatient medical care from the VA in Montana.

VA Montana also provides support with per diem payments at the two veteran's homes operated by the state of Montana, which helps to offset some of the cost of care for veterans seeking admission to these facilities. Additionally Montana veterans who are eligible may also be placed in private nursing homes around the state under the auspices of VA on a temporary or permanent contract basis.

The VA currently meets its obligation to provide long-term care services to veterans through a combination of federal appropriation to the VA and state veterans' home per diem payments. The VA does not provide levels of long term care that can be provided in State Veterans Homes, or provide reimbursement for "assisted living." The VA is however currently undertaking an assisted living pilot program, authorized by the Millennium Act.

Veterans Legislation:

There are currently several pieces of legislation focused at state veteran's home programs.

The "Veterans Choice of Representation and Benefits Enhancements Act of 2006 is targeted at efforts to eliminate two inequities in current law that serve as disincentives for severely disabled service-connected veterans to enter State Veterans Homes and create an innovative new program to help fill in gaps in State Home coverage. If passed this legislation will authorize the VA to provide veterans who are 50% or more service-connected disabled with prescription medications while residing in State Homes. Currently these veterans are authorized to receive such medications free of charge from VA if they reside in any setting other than a State Home. The second provision authorizes VA to pay State Homes the same rates for the care of a 70% or higher service-connected veteran residing in a State Home as they are currently authorized to pay via contract care to private community nursing homes. The legislation also creates a new program to fill gaps in State Home coverage by allowing VA to treat certain existing health care facilities, or certain beds within a facility, as State Home beds for purposes of receiving per diem payments. This provision is designed to provide States, particularly geographically large or rural States like Montana, with additional flexibility to develop small State Home bed units in collaboration with existing health care providers rather than construct new freestanding State Homes. This new program would be authorized for three years and be capped at 100 beds nationally.

State Veterans Home Challenges:

Montana faces many challenges in the operations of its State Veterans' Homes, including, but not limited to difficulties in finding sufficient numbers of direct care staff, such as, nurses and certified nurse aides to meet veterans care needs. In recent years, MVH has experienced staff recruitment and retention issues related to the economic environment of the Flathead Valley and competition for limited health care resources. In addition to the challenge of providing competitive wages, the increasing resident acuity has caused the cost of providing nursing home care to increase rapidly. In recent years reimbursement increases have not kept pace with rapidly rising costs of operations. Veteran's today are older and sicker, with Dementia in the aging veteran population placing more demands on facilities to deal with those residents. The cost and delivery of care to veterans at the two Montana State Veterans Homes are expected to increase in the years to come and continue to challenge the financial operation of these facilities.

Another challenge facing the State of Montana is the future of its current two facilities, which are operated under two different operational models. The Glendive Medical Center (GMC) has operated the Eastern Montana Veterans Home since it opened in 1995 under a contract arrangement. EMVH is the only DPHHS owned facility that is operated under a contract with the private sector. The Montana Veterans Home is operated and staffed by the State of Montana. Discussions related to the advantages and the disadvantages of contracting or directly operating come up periodically and may need to be reconsidered in the future if costs continue to increase.

Other Long Term Care Options:

Long-term care services in Montana may include the medical, social, housekeeping, or rehabilitation services a person needs over months or years in order to improve or maintain function or health. Such services are provided in nursing homes, in resident homes, or in community-based settings such as assisted-living facilities and retirement homes. In Montana services and programs as alternatives to nursing home care are available. Both medical and non-medical care may be received at home or in residential settings. Veterans may be eligible for these services or programs, but without any assistance from the VA in the form of state per diem or consideration for veteran preference.

Veterans Survey:

As part of this study, Montana conducted a non-scientific statewide survey to determine the individual needs, preferences and opinions of Montana veterans. The survey also collected demographic data about Montana veterans. Surveys were mailed to selected individuals and groups in Montana requesting their assistance in distributing the survey over a course of a few weeks to as many Montana veterans as possible. The survey tool was distributed to, Veterans Interim Committee Members, Fort Harrison, Veterans Service Offices, Veterans Service organizations, Military Affairs, and family members

and veterans at MVH & EMVH. Approximately 1700 copies of the survey were mailed out and 450 surveys were returned, representing a response rate of 26.47%.

Some of the survey highlights are:

86% of the respondents were Veterans and 14% of the respondents were the spouses of a Veteran.

86% of the respondents were male and 14% were female.

31% of the respondents were age 75 to 84, while 24% were 65 to 74 years of age, and 45% of the respondents were younger than 65.

36% of the respondents currently live in Flathead County followed by 13% in Cascade County.

32 % of the respondents have a service – connected disability, while 47 % of the respondents have a disability that is not service connected.

28% of the respondents receive daily help with cooking or meal preparation, 25% with medications, 17% with bathing, and 16% with dressing or grooming. With 21% being provided by the spouse.

88% of the respondents indicate that they need long-term care services, which are not currently available to them where they live, such as in-home care (22%), adult day-care (15%), Mental Health Services (11%), Assisted Living (11%), Retirement Living (11%), and Nursing Facility Care (9%).

51% of the respondents indicate that they would expect to need access to long-term care services in more than 5 years, 36% in the next 1 to 5 years.

When asked if they were unable to care for themselves at home, where would veterans most likely go to access long term care services, 29% responded the State Veterans Home in either Columbia Falls or Glendive. 15% indicated Assisted Living/Personal Care Facility and 12% indicated a nursing facility in their community. 47% of the respondents indicated that if they had to leave their community to access long-term care services, they would relocate to either the Flathead Valley or Missoula area. 12% indicated Helena as the community of choice for relocation. 44% of the respondents would relocate to other communities because of family and friends, 34% to be close to their current community.

When survey respondents were asked if another state veterans nursing facility were to be constructed, where it should be built to address the greatest number of veterans who are in need of this service, the respondents named their 1st choice as Kalispell (23%), followed by Helena (16%), Great Falls (15%), Missoula (13%), and Billings (11%). The survey presents that the overall choice (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) of veterans for a location of a state veteran's home was Missoula (18%), Helena (16%), Kalispell (15%), Great Falls (13%), and Billings (11%). All except Kalispell are outside of the current 2-hour radius of the two existing facilities.

If additional funding were to be available, respondents indicated that the best use of state funds would be to provide funding to care for veterans in their own homes and communities at (36%) or develop assisted living/retirement living housing options for veterans at (18%).

Summary:

The veteran population in Montana is increasing, especially those over 65 years of age. The projected increase alone in the over age 85 category could increase the demand on available beds at the two existing state veterans homes in future years. Both the admission history and the survey show the preferred choice of veterans is a location close to home, family, and friends. As with all long term care services there is a focus on developing community options that maintain individuals in their homes for as long as possible and avoid more costly institutional settings or service options.

Numerous challenges exist for the two State Veterans Homes that currently operate in the state. Higher cost of delivering services to more medically complex residents and the difficulty with recruitment and retention of qualified direct care staff are ongoing challenges. To maintain commitment, continuity and quality of care for Montana veterans the State will need to provide sufficient levels of appropriations that are adequate to maintain the ongoing operation and upkeep of the existing two state veterans' facilities prior to looking at expansion of other institutional based service options.

Long-term care is available to meet the needs of Montana veterans through several options such as the VA Healthcare system, a federal Veterans Home and the two State Veterans Homes. The availability of numerous nursing facilities with available beds throughout Montana provide access options to veterans and are located in many of the communities where future veteran population growth is projected. Veterans in Montana have choices of long-term care services that include medical, social, housekeeping, or rehabilitation services to improve or maintain function or health. Besides services provided by nursing facilities, services are available in community-based settings such as assisted-living facilities, retirement homes, and in-home care options are being developed or expanded in communities across the state. The cost of care subsidized by the VA per diem does not seem to greatly influence those veterans who choose to stay closer to home, family, and friends to receive long term care services.

Demographics/ Geographic's

III Demographics/Geographic's

a. Montana Aging Data

13.4% of Montana's population was 65 years of age or older according to the 2000 census. That rate has remained constant over the last 10 years. However, as the baby boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) reach retirement age, Montana is projected to age at a significantly greater rate than other states in the nation. By 2025, Montana is projected to have the third highest proportion of people age 65 and over in the nation (24.5% of its total population).ⁱ The fastest growing age group will be those 85 years of age and older. In 1990, 1.3% of Montana's population was 85 years of age or older. By 2003, this percentage had increased to 1.9%, the 17th highest rate in the nation. By 2025, 3.1% of Montana's population is projected to be 85 and older, the 4th highest percentage in the nation.ⁱⁱ There are currently about 160 people in Montana who are 100 years of age or older.

Between 2002 and 2030, the nation's 65 and over population will more than double, from 35.6 million to 71.5 million, which will mean that almost one in five people will be 65 or older. In Montana, the 65 and over population will go from 125,000 in 2002 to about 270,000 by 2030, which will mean that one in every four Montanans will be 65 or older.

Looking specifically at long-term care needs, the extent to which states will have to prepare for an increase in the number of people needing long-term care services will depend on a number of factors, including the projected number of the oldest-old residents - people age 85 and older - and therefore, most likely to need long-term care services. Nationally, a 66 % increase is expected in the population age 85 and older between 2000 and 2025. For Montana, the projected increase is 123%, which ranks as the 8th highest increase nationwide.ⁱⁱⁱ

The following maps display demographic data for Montana by county for 2000-2025

i. Percentage of 60, 65, & 75 Years of Age and Older By County for 2000 and 2025

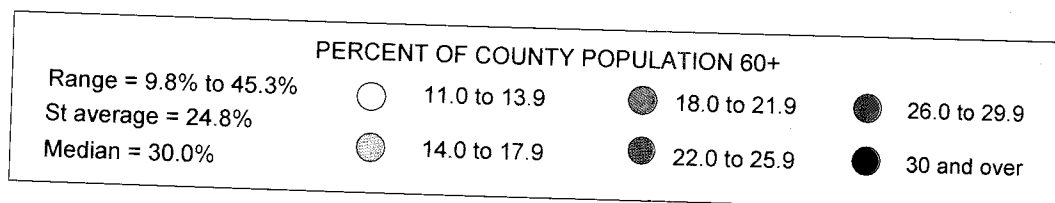
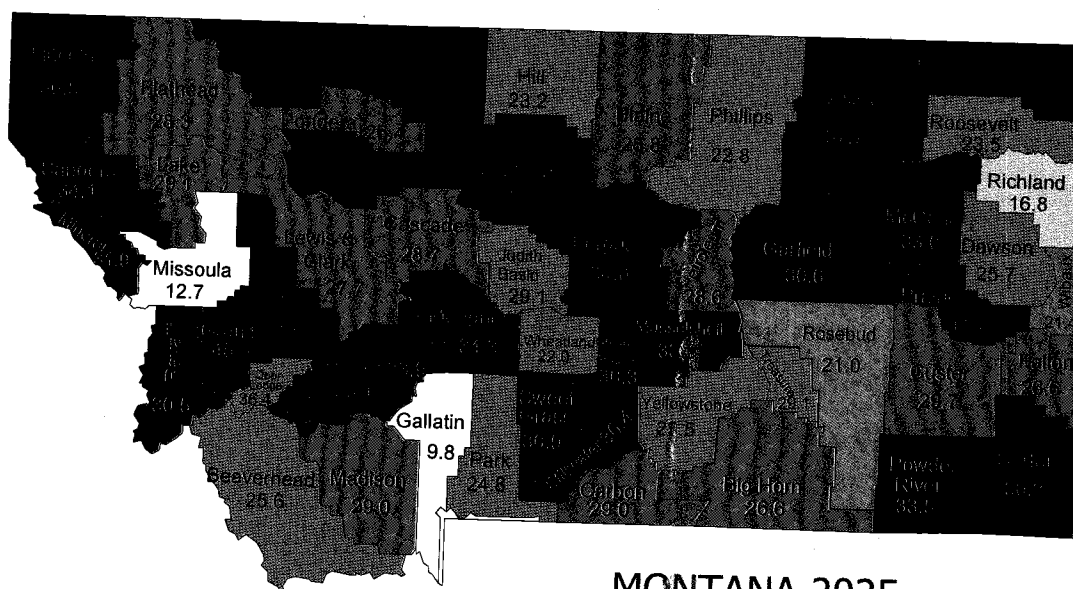
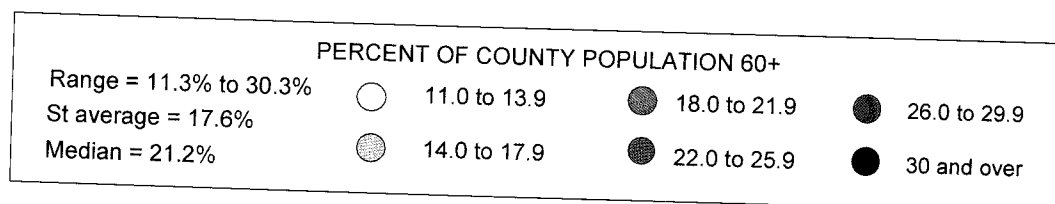
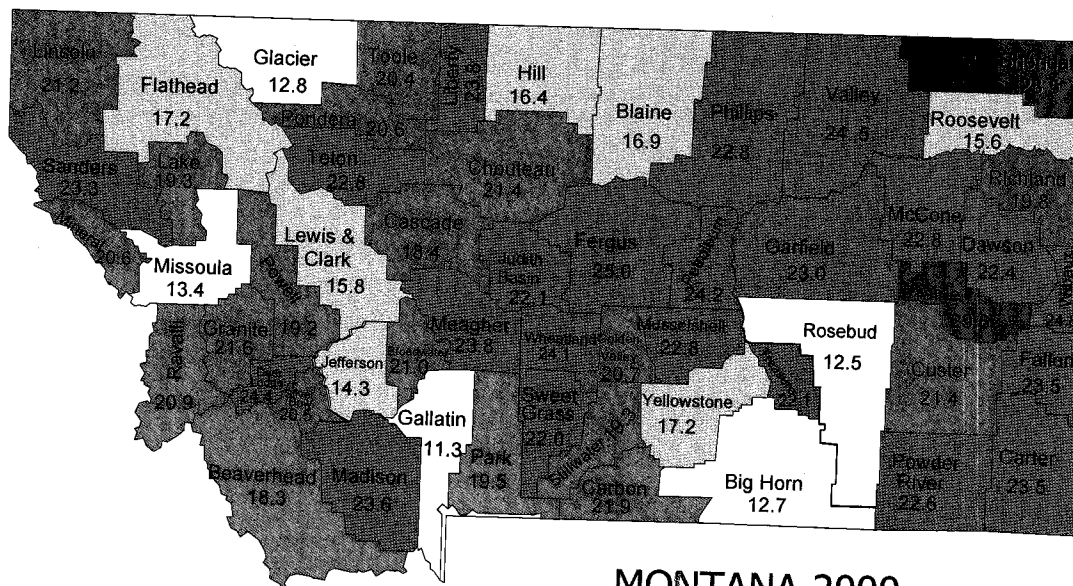
Three maps were compiled for Aging Services Bureau of the Senior and Long Term Care Division, DPHHS from 2000 census data for Montana. These maps shows the percentage of the population in Montana by county that is 60, 65, & 75 years of age and older.

The set of maps on page 14 of this report, show that counties with 30 percent or more of the county population 60 years and older jumps from one (1) county in 2000 to twenty-eight (28) counties in 2025. The State average increases from 17.6% in 2000 to 24.8% in 2025. In 2000, Daniels County has the highest percentage with 30.3% and Granite County has the highest percentage in 2025 with 45.3%.

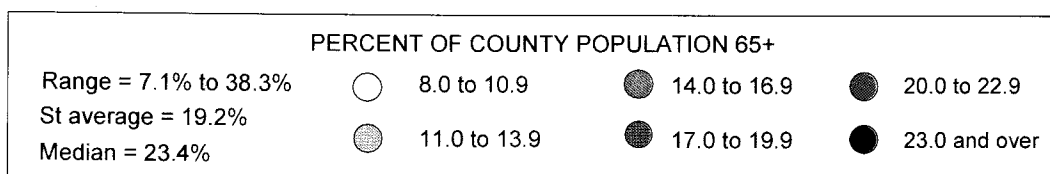
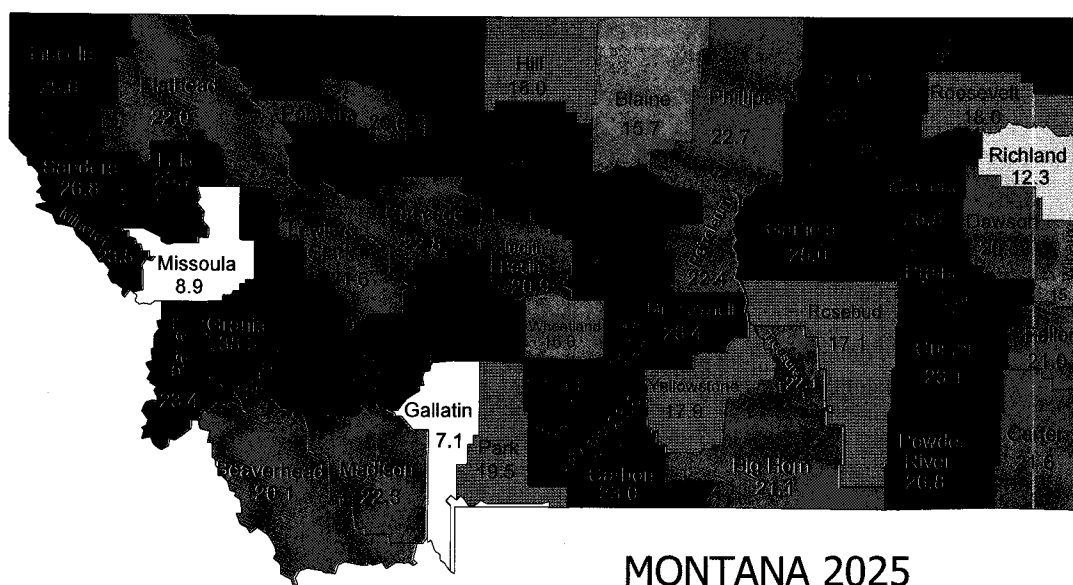
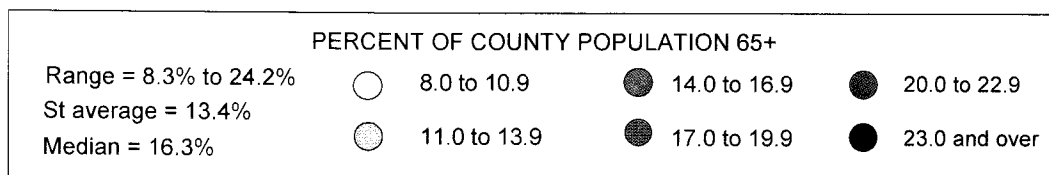
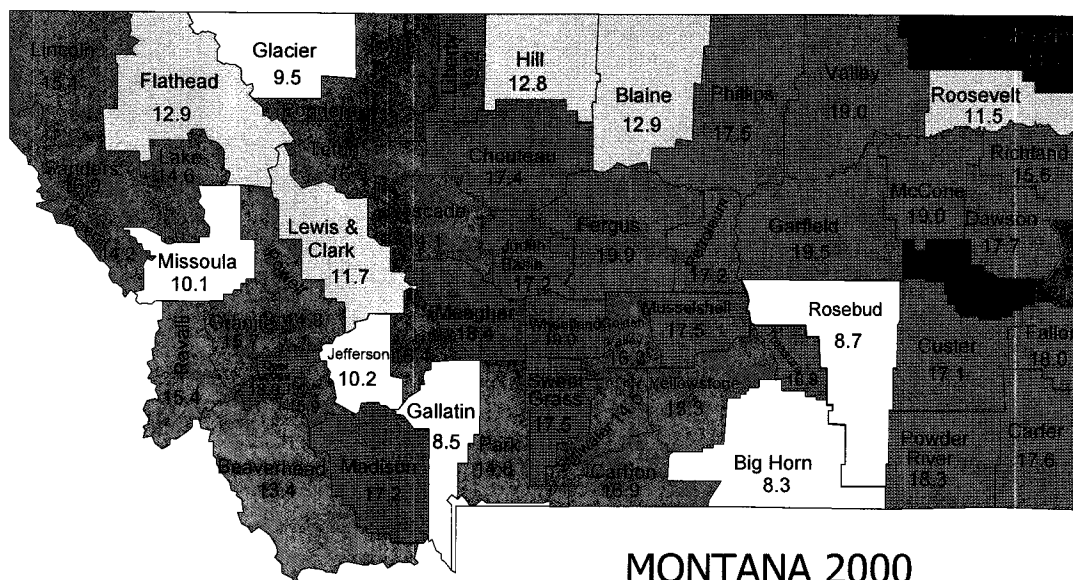
The set of maps on page 15 of this report, show that counties with 23 percent or more of the county population 65 years and older jumps from three (3) counties in 2000 to thirty-one (31) counties in 2025. The State average increases from 13.4% in 2000 to 19.2% in 2025. In 2000, Prairie County has the highest percentage with 24.2% and Granite County has the highest percentage in 2025 with 38.3%.

The set of maps on page 16 of this report, show that counties with 12 percent or more of the county population 75 years and older jumps from three (3) counties in 2000 to eleven (11) counties in 2025. The State average increases from 6.5% in 2000 to 8.2% in 2025. In 2000, Prairie County has the highest percentage with 13.3% and Granite County has the highest percentage in 2025 with 21.1%.

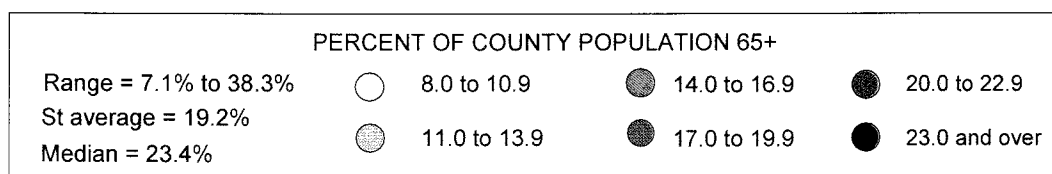
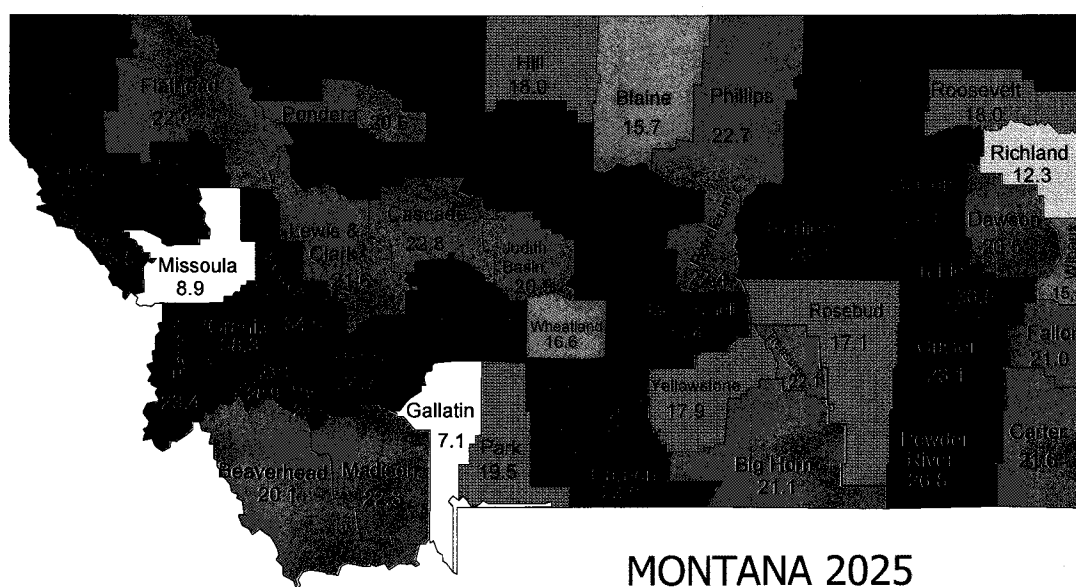
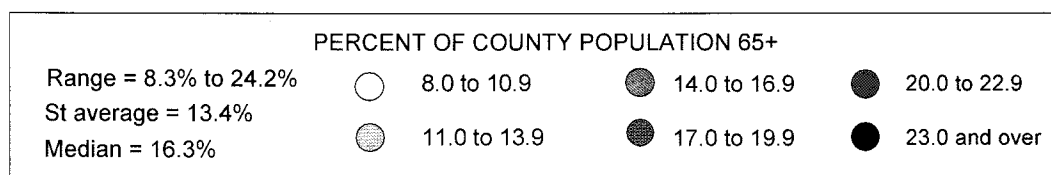
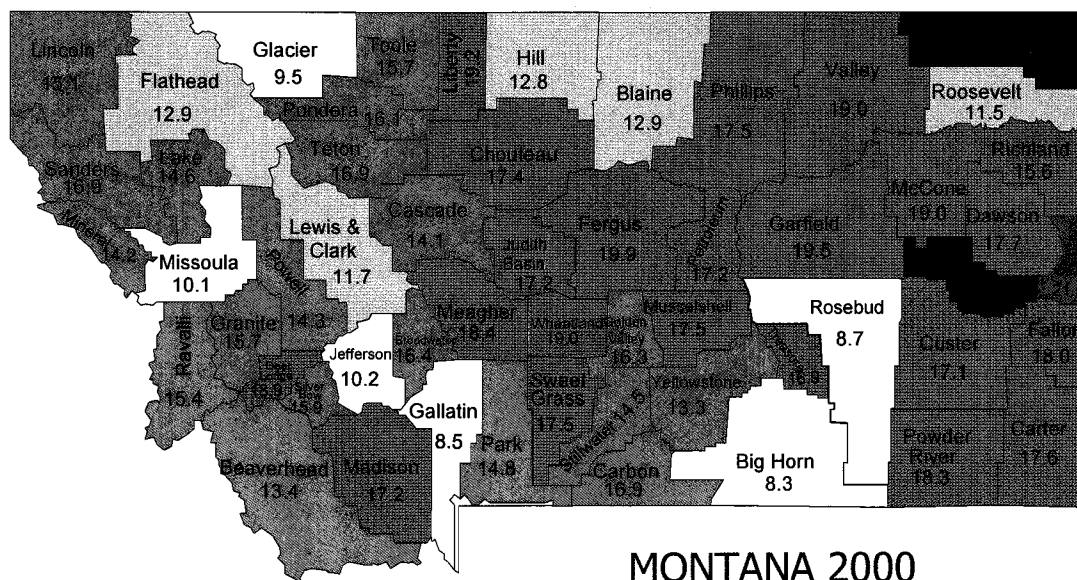
PERCENTAGE OF 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER BY COUNTY



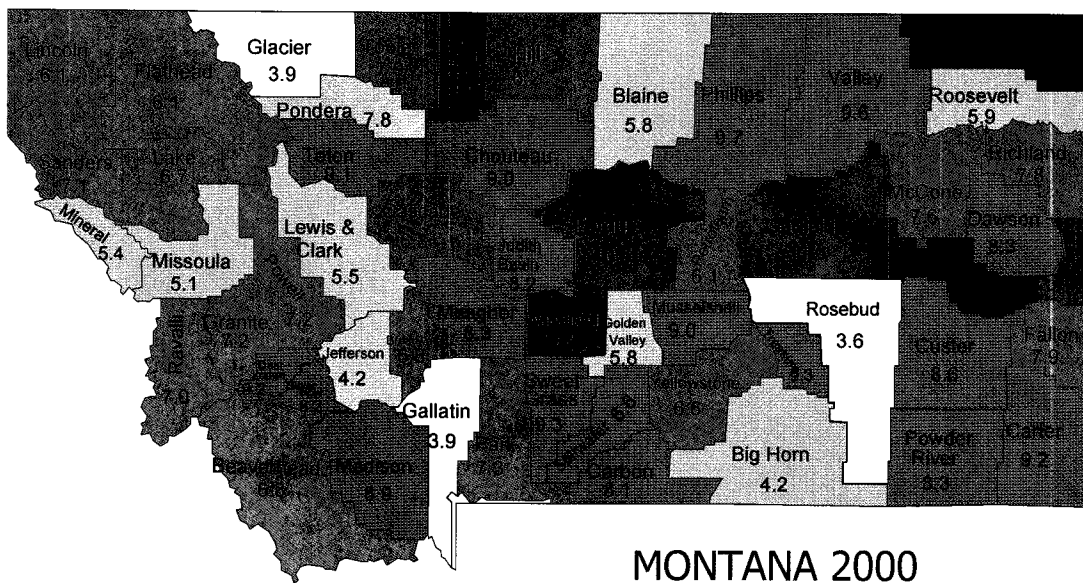
PERCENTAGE OF 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER BY COUNTY



PERCENTAGE OF 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER BY COUNTY



PERCENTAGE OF 75 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER BY



MONTANA 2000

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 75+

Range = 3.6% to 13.3%

St average = 6.5%

Median = 7.6%



2.0 to 3.9



6.0 to 7.9



10.0 to 11.9



4.0 to 5.9

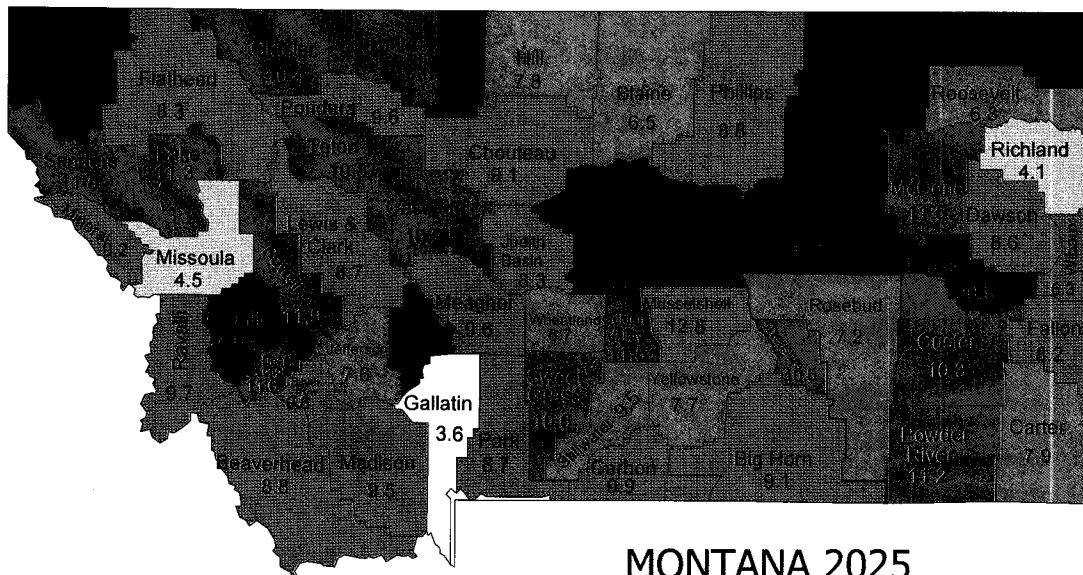


8.0 to 9.9



12 and over

COUNTY



MONTANA 2025

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 75+

Range = 3.6% to 21.1%

St average = 8.2%

Median = 9.7%



2.0 to 3.9



6.0 to 7.9



10.0 to 11.9



4.0 to 5.9



8.0 to 9.9



12 and over

b. Montana Veterans Demographic/Geographic Data

Census 2000 Veteran Data - Census 2000² was the largest peacetime effort in the history of the United States. Population information for the approximately 26 million veterans across the United States and Puerto Rico was collected. These demographics are helpful in efforts to analyze veteran's needs. This data is as of 4/1/2000 and projected for 2010 and 2025.

Census 2000 asked about Veteran status, including period of military service, and is used primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veteran benefits with health care, education and employment, and disability and retirement. This data are needed to conduct policy analysis, program planning, and budgeting, for federal veterans' programs, and for reports to Congress on veterans' facilities and services.

Based on data about veterans, local agencies develop health care and other services for elderly veterans under the Older Americans Act.

Among the 50 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska had the highest percentage of veterans, 17.1 percent. Veterans accounted for about 16.2 percent of the adult population in Montana, followed by Nevada (16.1 percent), Wyoming (16 percent), and Maine (15.9 percent).³

The 2000 Census demonstrated a population of 108,476 veterans in Montana, with 37,633 of these veterans age 65 and older. The age 65 and older population including civilians and veterans was 120,949, presenting that 31.11 % of the 65 and older population in Montana are veterans.

i. 2000 Montana Veteran Population by VA Service Region

In January, 2006, the study utilized the nine (9) Montana Department of Military Affairs, Veterans Affairs Division Regions to display the 2000 veteran census population and the population projections. It was necessary for the study to maintain consistency with other veteran services in Montana. The veteran service regions map provided to the study from the Montana Veterans Affairs Division, showed Roosevelt County was split in two (2) service regions. The study consistently utilized demographic data for Roosevelt County in service region 1.

² The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the American Factfinder on the Internet (factfinder.census.gov). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002.

³ Helping You Make Informed Decisions; U.S. Department of Commerce; Economics and Statistics Administration; U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; Issued May 2003; Veterans: 2000 Census; 2000 Brief; By Christy Richardson and Judith Waldrop

The following table lists the Montana counties and the Regions they were assigned to:

Region 1 Counties	Region 2 Counties	Region 3 Counties	Region 4 Counties	Region 5 Counties	Region 6 Counties	Region 7 Counties	Region 8 Counties	Region 9 Counties
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Carter	Blaine	Cascade	Big Horn	Gallatin	Broadwater	Flathead	Lake	Beaverhead
Custer	Daniels	Chouteau	Carbon	Golden Valley	Lewis and Clark	Lincoln	Mineral	Deer Lodge
Dawson	Glacier	Fergus	Musselshell	Meagher		Sanders	Missoula	Granite
Fallon	Hill	Judith Basin	Stillwater	Park			Ravalli	Jefferson

The chart below was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The data from the source was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by the VA service region in Montana.

The chart shows the Veteran population in 2000 was highest in Region 8, represented by Lake, Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties at 17.61%. Region 4, representing Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Treasure, and Yellowstone Counties was second at 17.17%.

2000 MONTANA VETERAN POPULATION BY AGE AND VA SERVICE REGION								
Montana Veterans Affairs Regions Veteran Population	Veterans 2000 Census	Age 65-69	Age 70-74	Age 75-79	Age 80-84	Age 85+	Total Veteran Population	Percent of Total Population
Region 1	7925	792	766	672	336	112	2678	7.12%
Region 2	5961	676	653	581	290	98	2298	6.11%
Region 3	15645	1625	1561	1421	706	242	5555	14.76%
Region 4	18724	1899	1831	1638	817	276	6461	17.17%
Region 5	9046	848	814	749	372	127	2910	7.73%
Region 6	7609	725	700	627	313	106	2471	6.57%
Region 7	13968	1436	1385	1240	618	209	4888	12.99%
Region 8	14298	1942	1869	1689	840	287	6627	17.61%
Region 9	15300	1100	1062	950	473	160	3745	9.95%
Totals	108476	11043	10641	9567	4765	1617	37633	

Veterans Projections Source VetPop2000. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy & Planning. 2001. VA 1.95:V 64 - U.S. Government Documents". VA's official estimate of the veteran population and projection to the year 2029."

ii. 2010 Montana Veteran Population by VA Service Region

The chart below was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The 2010 projected data from the source was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana.

By 2010, Region 8 remained highest, with an increase to 19.64% from 17.61% in 2000; and Region 4 remained second, but decreased from 17.61 in 2000 to 16.65 %. 6 of the 9 regions decrease from 2000 to 2010, except Region 6, represented by Broadwater, and Lewis and Clark Counties (6.57% to 7.23%); Region 7, represented by Flathead, Lincoln, and Sanders Counties (12.99% to 14.63%); and Region 8 as noted above.

2010 MONTANA VETERAN POPULATION BY AGE AND VA SERVICE REGION								
Montana Veterans Affairs Regions Veteran Population	Veterans 2000 Census	Age 65-69	Age 70-74	Age 75-79	Age 80-84	Age 85>	Total Veteran Population	Percent of Total Population
Region 1	7925	585	422	385	364	284	2040	5.75%
Region 2	5961	494	357	344	306	248	1749	4.93%
Region 3	15645	1289	1037	984	752	643	4705	13.26%
Region 4	18724	1728	1175	1150	931	923	5907	16.65%
Region 5	9046	1014	659	512	444	420	3049	8.60%
Region 6	7609	817	564	464	400	320	2565	7.23%
Region 7	13968	1456	1182	1065	830	655	5188	14.63%
Region 8	14298	2174	1607	1351	936	898	6966	19.64%
Region 9	15300	973	728	652	515	436	3304	9.31%
Totals	108476	10530	7731	6907	5478	4827	35473	

Veterans Projections Source VetPop2000. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy & Planning. 2001. VA 1.95:V 64 - U.S. Government Documents". VA's official estimate of the veteran population and projection to the year 2029."

iii. 2025 Montana Veteran Population by VA Service Region

The chart below was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The 2025 projected data is from the source was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana.

By 2025, Region 8 still ranks 1st, increasing from 19.64% in 2010 to 21.44%; and Region 4 ranks 2nd, decreasing slightly to 16.13 % from 16.65%. 5 of the 9 regions decrease from 2010 to 2025. Increases occur in Region 5, represented by Gallatin, Golden Valley, Meagher, Park, Sweet Grass, and Wheatland Counties (8.60% to 11.21%); Region 6, represented by Broadwater, and Lewis and Clark Counties (6.57% to 7.23%); Region 7, represented by Flathead, Lincoln, and Sanders Counties (12.99% to 14.63%); and Region 8 as noted above.

2025 MONTANA VETERAN POPULATION BY AGE AND VA SERVICE REGION								
Montana Veterans Affairs Regions Veteran Population	Veterans 2000 Census	Age 65-69	Age 70-74	Age 75-79	Age 80-84	Age 85>	Total Veteran Population	Percent of Total Population
Region 1	7925	338	289	369	223	145	1364	4.16%
Region 2	5961	320	259	345	197	142	1263	3.86%
Region 3	15645	858	735	1014	593	457	3657	11.17%
Region 4	18724	1242	1064	1352	775	850	5283	16.13%
Region 5	9046	940	869	960	512	389	3670	11.21%
Region 6	7609	625	630	852	450	272	2829	8.64%
Region 7	13968	1064	1124	1450	922	559	5119	15.63%
Region 8	14298	1615	1532	2050	1054	772	7023	21.44%
Region 9	15300	609	523	705	434	271	2542	7.76%
Totals	108476	7611	7025	9097	5160	3857	32750	

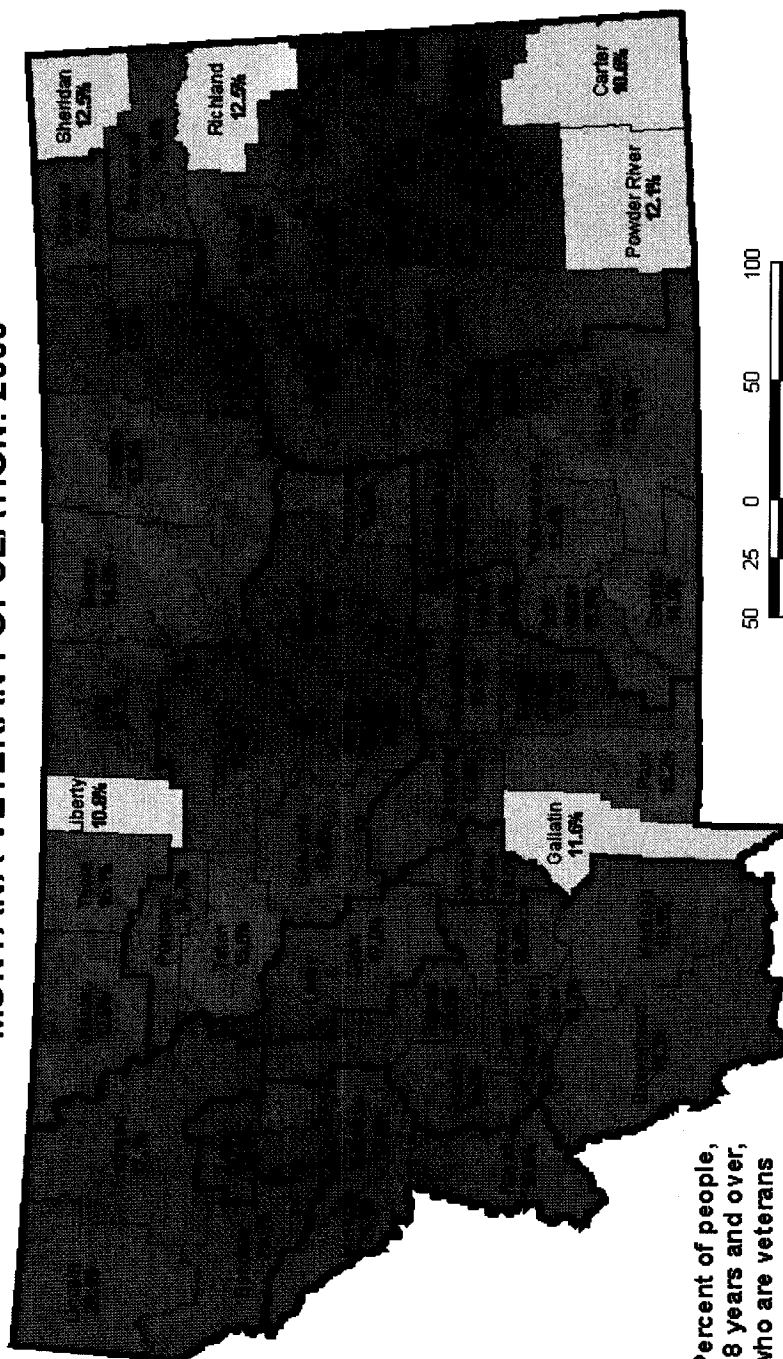
Veterans Projections Source VetPop2000. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy & Planning. 2001. VA 1.95:V 64 - U.S. Government Documents". VA's official estimate of the veteran population and projection to the year 2029."

iv. Montana Veteran Population 2000

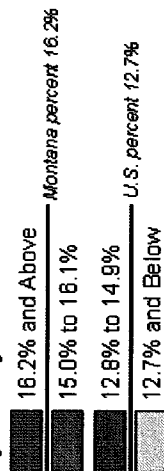
The map on page 22 was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The data was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana. The map reflects the veteran population in Montana for someone 18 and older who is not currently on active duty, but who once served on active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. This map includes people who served for even a short time.

This map shows that in 2000, twenty-six (26) counties were 16.2% or above as a percent of people, 18 years and over, who are veterans by county. Sanders County was the highest with 21.8 % followed by Mineral County with 21.4 %. The Montana average percent was 16.2%, while the national average was 12.7%.

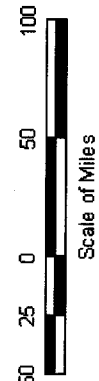
MONTANA VETERAN POPULATION: 2000



Percent of people,
18 years and over,
who are veterans
by county



VA Division Service Office Boundary



Created by:
Census & Economic Information Center
Montana Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave., Helena MT 59620-0505
Phone: 406-841-2740, Email: ocio@mt.gov
Internet: <http://ocio.mt.gov>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data
P00. SEX BY AGE BY ARMED FORCES STATUS BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER.

October 2006 VerPop 2000r.mxd

v. Montana Veteran's 65 Years & Above in 2000

The map on page 24 was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The data was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana. The map reflects the veteran population in Montana for someone 65 and older who is not currently on active duty, but who once served on active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. This map includes people who served for even a short time.

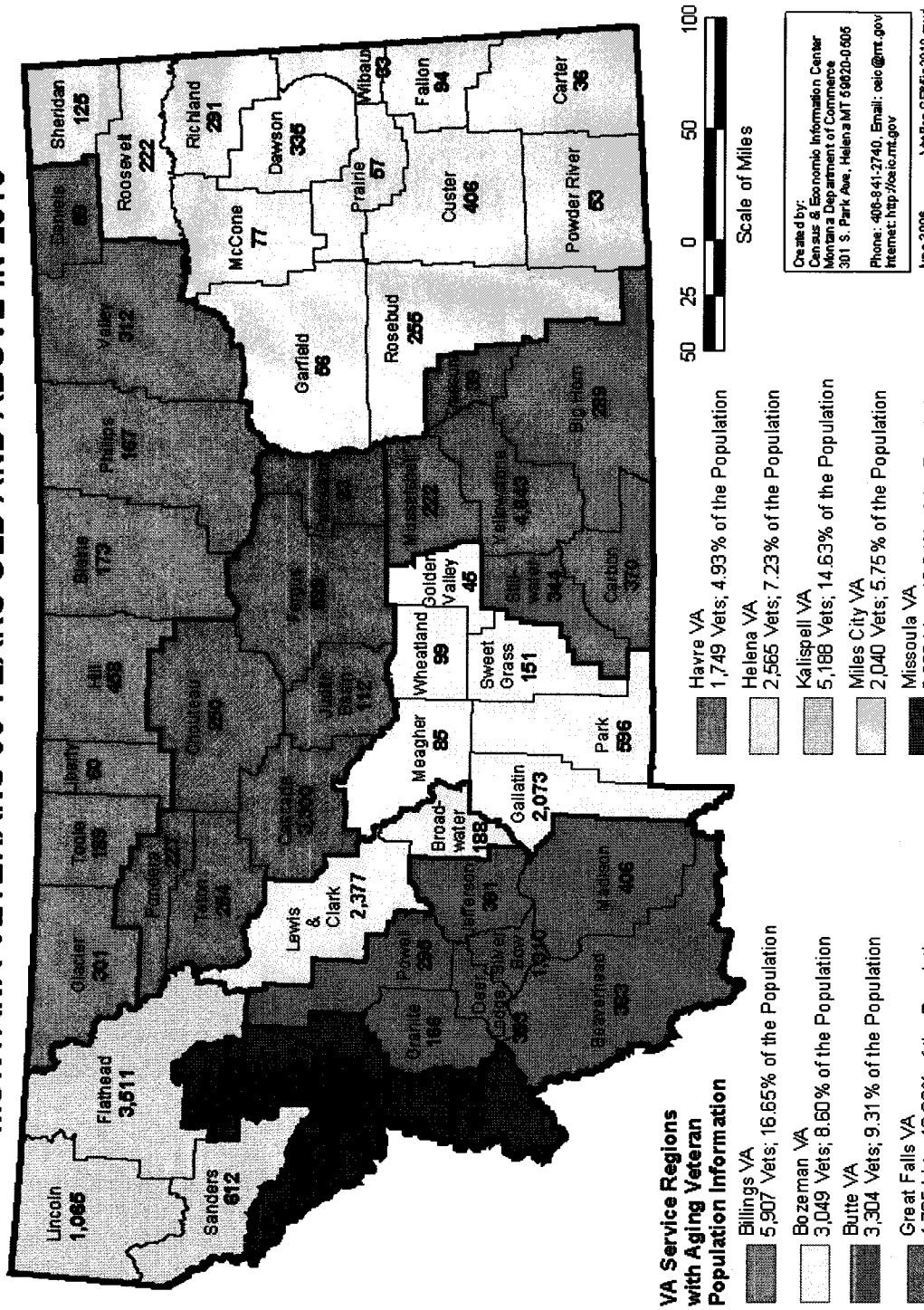
This map shows that the Missoula VA region representing Missoula County, Lake County, Mineral County, and Ravalli County had the largest aging Veteran population with 17.61 % of the population 65 and older in 2000, followed closely by the Billings VA region with Yellowstone County, Musselshell County, Stillwater County, Carbon County, Big Horn County, and Treasure County with 17.17% of the population.

vi. Montana Veteran's 65 Years & Above in 2010

The map on page 26 was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The data was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana. The map reflects the veteran population projected for Montana in 2010 for someone 65 and older who is not currently on active duty, but who once served on active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. This map includes people who served for even a short time.

The 2010 projection map shows that the Missoula VA region representing Missoula County, Lake County, Mineral County, and Ravalli County had the largest aging Veteran population with 19.64 % of the population 65 and older projected in 2010, followed by the Billings VA region with Yellowstone County, Musselshell County, Stillwater County, Carbon County, Big Horn County, and Treasure County with 16.65% of the population. In relation to the aging veteran population statewide, the Missoula region is projected to increase as a percentage of the population from 2000 to 2010, while the Billings region is projected to decrease in the percentage of aging veterans statewide for that same time span.

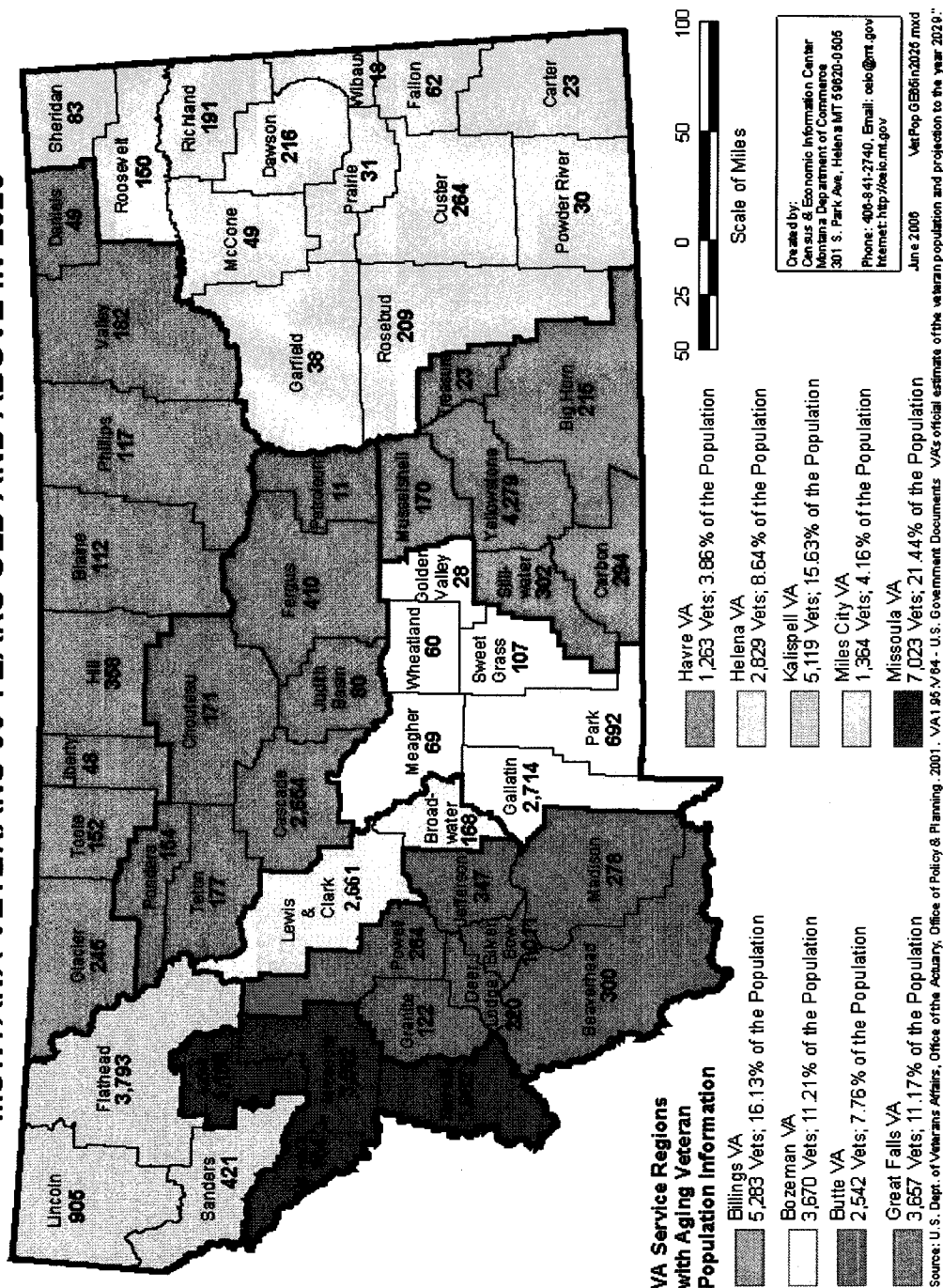
MONTANA VETERANS 65 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE IN 2010



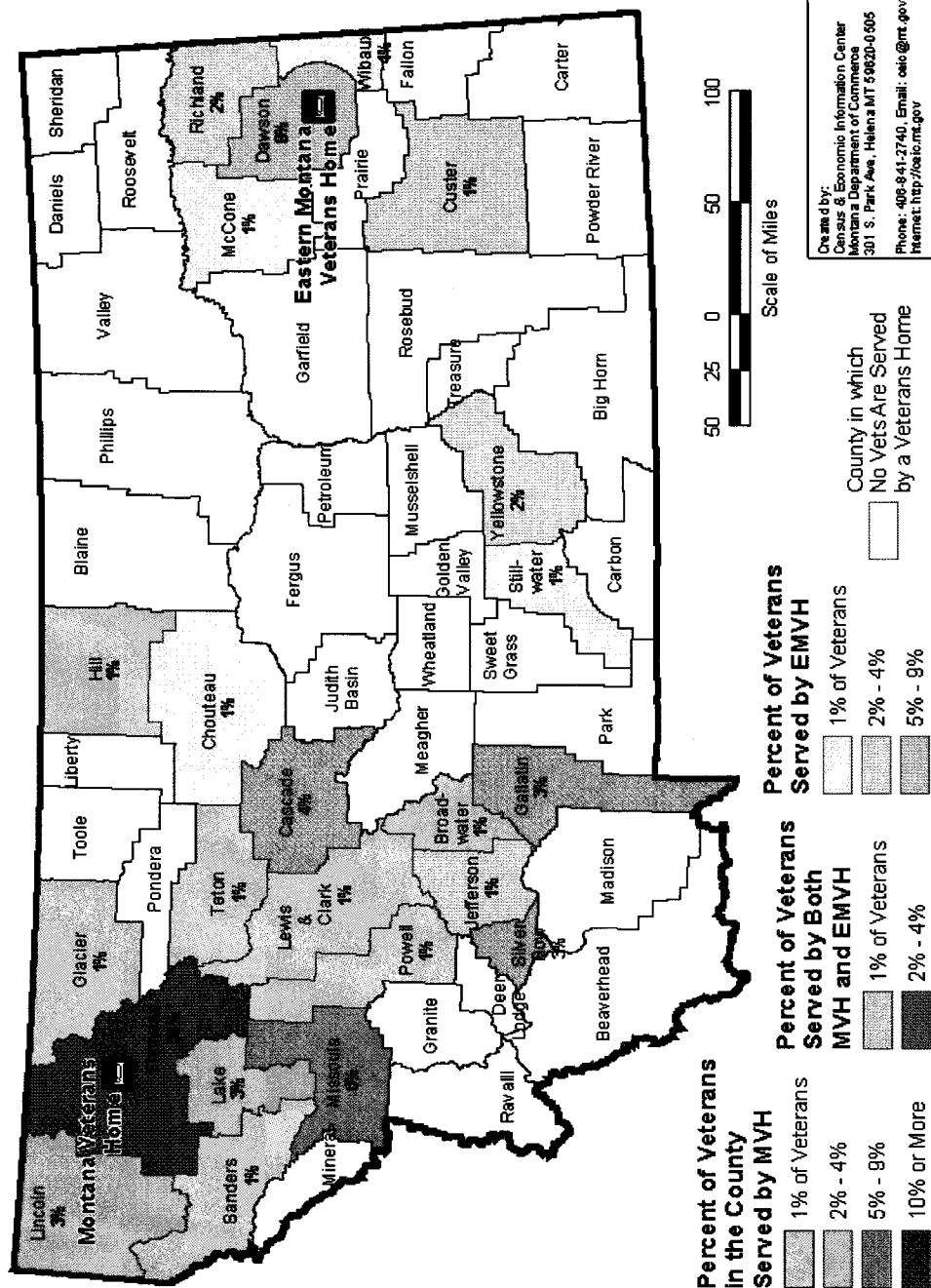
vii. Montana Veteran's 65 Years & Above in 2025

The map on page 28 was developed from the Census 2000 Veteran Data for Senior and Long Term Care Division of DPHHS. The data was formatted in an EXCEL spreadsheet and sorted by county and then by VA service region in Montana. The map reflects the veteran population projected for Montana in 2025 for someone 65 and older who is not currently on active duty, but who once served on active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. This map includes people who served for even a short time.

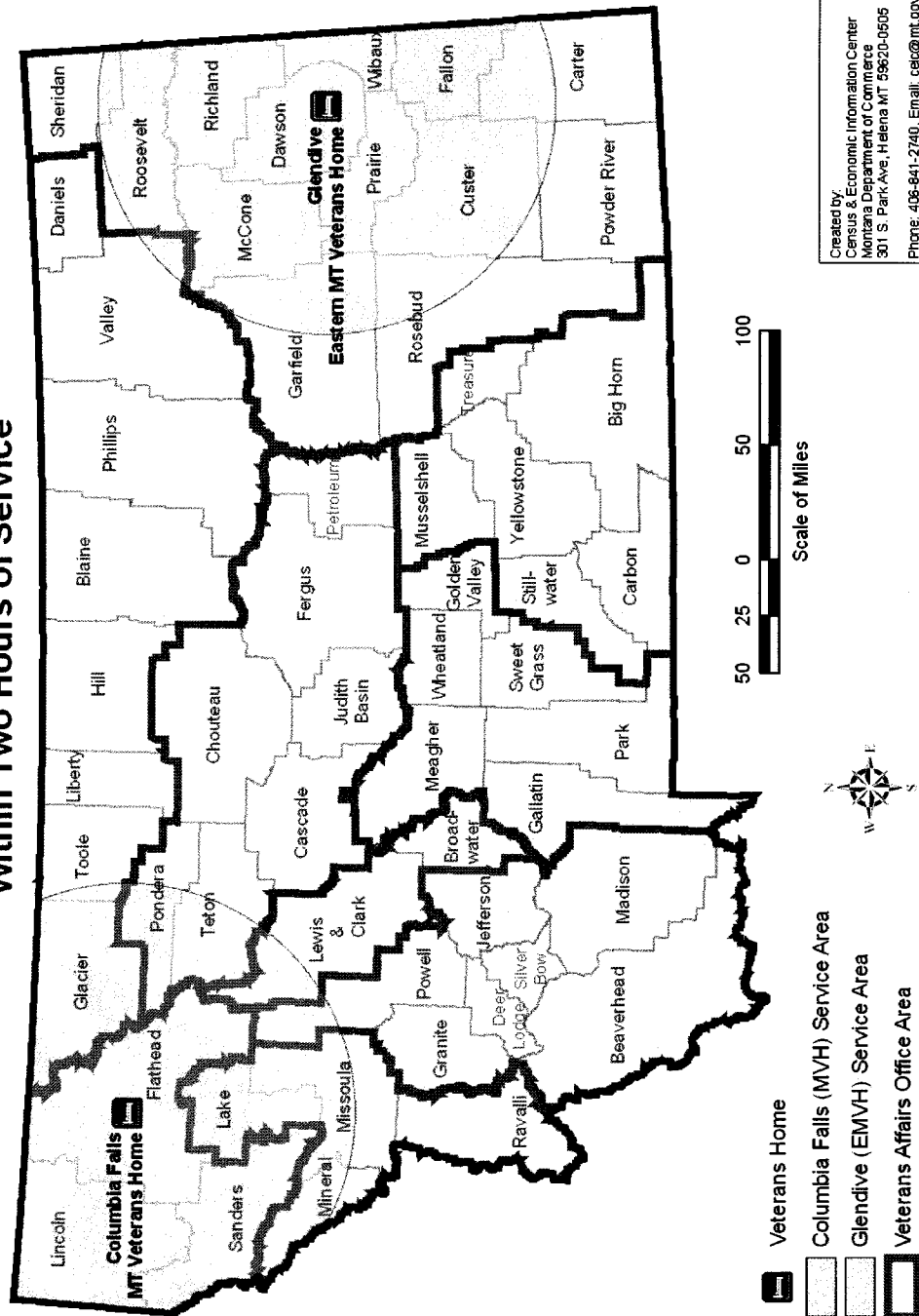
The 2025 projection map shows that the Missoula VA region representing Missoula County, Lake County, Mineral County, and Ravalli County had the largest aging Veteran population with 21.44 % of the population 65 and older projected in 2025, followed by the Billings VA region with Yellowstone County, Musselshell County, Stillwater County, Carbon County, Big Horn County, and Treasure County with 16.13% of the population. In relation to the aging veteran population statewide, the Missoula region is projected to increase as a percentage of the population from 2010 to 2025, while the Billings region is projected to slightly decrease in the percentage of aging veterans statewide for that same time span.



PERCENT OF VETERANS SERVED BY MVH OR EMVH BY COUNTY OF ORIGIN



Montana Veterans Served by Long Term Care Facilities Within Two Hours of Service



Created by:
Census & Economic Information Center
Montana Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave, Helena MT 59620-0505
Phone: 406-841-2740, Email: cec@mt.gov
Internet: <http://cec.mt.gov>

June 2006 VetCentersW2h1s.mxd

Source: State of Montana, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division, www.mt.gov/dma/mvad.